

**Children's Bureau
Child and Family Services Reviews
Summary of Key Findings
Fiscal Year 2002**

The Children's Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families administer the State child and family services reviews. The reviews assess State performance during a specified period of time with respect to seven child welfare outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being, and with respect to seven systemic factors.

Each of the seven outcomes is comprised of individual practices (referred to in the reviews as items), which are determined by the reviewers to be either strengths, areas needing improvement, or not applicable. In the attached chart, developed by the Child Welfare Review Project, each of the practices reviewed is noted and marked with a "✓" if it was found to be a strength for the State.

Based on the findings relating to these practices, the State is determined to be in substantial conformity, partial conformity, or not in conformity with each of the seven outcomes and seven systemic factors. In the attached chart, if the State was found to be in substantial conformity with the outcome or systemic factor under review, an "S" is marked in the first column beneath that outcome or factor.

With respect to the Federal fiscal year 2002 reviews, please note the following:

- Under Permanency Outcome 1, the practice referred to as "Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives" (item 8), was modified following the completion of the fiscal year 2001 reviews. In those reviews, the focus of this item was on the provision of independent living services by the State. The findings related to item 8 in this report, therefore, should not be compared to the findings for item 8 in 2001.

Further explanation of each individual practice, outcome, and systemic factor is available in the Child and Family Services Review Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions, which is posted on the Children's Bureau Web site at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/tools/onsitefinal.htm>.

**Children's Bureau
Fiscal Year 2002 Child and Family Services Reviews
Summary of Key Findings**

The Children's Bureau and the Administration for Children and Families administer the State child and family services reviews. The reviews comprise two phases: (1) the Statewide Assessment, during which the State analyzes its child welfare data and practice, and (2) the onsite review, during which Federal and State teams examine outcomes for children and families by assessing child welfare practices, and assess State systemic issues through stakeholder interviews. The following chart, developed by the Child Welfare Review Project, provides a summary of the findings from the final reports of the reviews conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. An "S" indicates that the State obtained substantial conformity with the outcome or systemic factor under review. A "✓" indicates that the practice under review was found to be a strength for the State.

I. States' Conformance on Safety Outcomes

States	Outcome 1: Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.			Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.		
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Timely Investigation of Reports of Child Maltreatment	Prevention of Repeat Maltreatment of Children	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Maintaining Child(ren) Safely in Their Homes	Reducing Risk of Harm to Children
Alabama	S		✓			
Alaska						
California		✓			✓	✓
Colorado			✓		✓	✓
Connecticut		✓			✓	✓
Michigan			✓		✓	
Montana					✓	
Nebraska					✓	✓
Ohio					✓	✓
Oklahoma					✓	
Pennsylvania	S		✓			
Tennessee			✓			
Texas		✓	✓			
West Virginia		✓				
Wyoming						

II. States' Conformance on Permanency Outcomes

States	Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.						
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Preventing Foster Care Re-Entries	Providing Stable Placements for Children in Foster Care	Establishing Appropriate Permanency Goals for Children	Achieving Permanency Through Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives ¹	Achieving Adoption	Achieving Permanency Goal of Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
Alabama		✓	✓				
Alaska		✓					
California							
Colorado					✓		
Connecticut							
Michigan		✓		✓		✓	✓
Montana							
Nebraska		✓					
Ohio				✓			✓
Oklahoma					✓		✓
Pennsylvania							
Tennessee							
Texas		✓					✓
West Virginia					✓		
Wyoming		✓					

¹ Please note that this review item was revised for the FY 2002 reviews and additional clarifying language was added for the FY 2003 reviews. In 2001, this item focused on independent living services.

II. State's Conformance on Permanency Outcomes (Continued)

States	Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.						
	Substantial Conformity With Outcome	Placing Children in Close Proximity to Their Families	Placing Children With Their Siblings	Facilitating Visitation of Children in Care With Parents and Siblings	Preserving Connections	Placing Children With Relatives	Supporting the Relationship of Children in Care With Parents
Alabama		✓	✓				
Alaska		✓	✓				
California		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Colorado		✓	✓			✓	
Connecticut		✓	✓		✓		✓
Michigan		✓			✓		
Montana		✓	✓		✓		
Nebraska		✓	✓				
Ohio		✓	✓	✓			✓
Oklahoma		✓	✓	✓			✓
Pennsylvania			✓				
Tennessee		✓					
Texas	S	✓		✓		✓	✓
West Virginia		✓	✓				
Wyoming		✓					

IV. States' Conformance on the Systemic Factors

States	Statewide Information System		Case Review System					
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Automated Information System ²	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Written Case Plans ³	Frequent Court Reviews of Case Status ⁴	Frequent Permanency Hearings ⁵	Timely Termination of Parental Rights ⁶	Caretaker and Parent Notification of Hearings ⁷
Alabama	S	✓			✓			✓
Alaska	S	✓			✓		✓	
California	S	✓			✓	✓		✓
Colorado	S	✓			✓			✓
Connecticut					✓			
Michigan	S	✓			✓		✓	
Montana	S	✓					✓	✓
Nebraska	S	✓			✓	✓		
Ohio	S	✓			✓		✓	✓
Oklahoma	S	✓			✓		✓	
Pennsylvania	S	✓			✓	✓		✓
Tennessee	S	✓			✓	✓		
Texas	S	✓	S		✓	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia	S	✓					✓	
Wyoming	S	✓			✓			

² The statewide automated information system can determine the status, demographics, location, and goals for all children in foster care.

³ Children in foster care have written case plans and children and parents are consistently involved in case planning.

⁴ The status of each child is reviewed in court at least every six months.

⁵ Permanency hearings are held for children in foster care within 12 months of entry into care.

⁶ Termination of parental rights proceedings occur within the timeframes specified in the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

⁷ Foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caretakers of children in foster care are routinely notified of and given an opportunity to participate in hearings for children.

IV. States' Conformance on the Systemic Factors (Continued)

States	Quality Assurance System			Training			
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Quality Standards ⁸	Quality Assurance System ⁹	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Staff Development and Training Program ¹⁰	Ongoing Staff Training ¹¹	Training for Foster and Adoptive Parents ¹²
Alabama	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Alaska		✓		S	✓	✓	
California		✓					
Colorado	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	
Connecticut	S	✓	✓	S	✓		✓
Michigan	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Montana				S	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska				S	✓		✓
Ohio	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Oklahoma	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Pennsylvania	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Tennessee	S	✓	✓				✓
Texas	S	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia	S	✓	✓	S	✓		✓
Wyoming	S	✓					✓

⁸ Standards have been implemented to ensure that children in foster care are provided with quality services to address their needs.

⁹ The State operates an identifiable quality assurance system that has the capacity to monitor the quality of services, identify strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provide reports, and evaluate program improvement measures.

¹⁰ The State operates a staff development and training program.

¹¹ The State provides ongoing training addressing the skills and knowledge needed for staff to perform their duties.

¹² The State provides training for current and prospective foster and adoptive parents and staff of State-licensed facilities that care for children in foster care.

IV. States' Conformance on the Systemic Factors (Continued)

States	Service Array				Agency Responsiveness to the Community			
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Array of Services for Children and Families ¹³	Services Are Accessible Throughout the State ¹⁴	Services Are Individualized For Unique Needs ¹⁵	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Consultation With Stakeholders ¹⁶	Joint Development of Progress Reports ¹⁷	Coordination of Services With Federal Programs ¹⁸
Alabama	S	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Alaska					S	✓		✓
California		✓			S	✓	✓	
Colorado	S	✓		✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Connecticut	S	✓		✓				✓
Michigan	S	✓	✓		S	✓	✓	✓
Montana	S	✓		✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska					S	✓	✓	✓
Ohio	S	✓		✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Oklahoma		✓			S	✓	✓	✓
Pennsylvania	S	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Tennessee					S	✓		✓
Texas	S	✓		✓	S	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia	S	✓		✓	S	✓	✓	✓
Wyoming					S	✓	✓	✓

¹³ The State offers an array of services to meet the needs of children and families.

¹⁴ Services are accessible to families and children in all locations of the State.

¹⁵ Services offered are individualized to the unique needs of children and families.

¹⁶ The State engages in ongoing consultation with consumers, service providers, courts, and other stakeholders.

¹⁷ The State jointly develops with its stakeholders annual reports of progress.

¹⁸ The State's services are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal programs servicing the same population.

IV. States' Conformance on the Systemic Factors (Continued)

States	Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention					
	Substantial Conformity With Factor	Standards for Foster and Adoptive Families ¹⁹	Uniform Application of Standards ²⁰	Criminal Clearances for Foster and Adoptive Families ²¹	Recruitment of Diverse Foster and Adoptive Families ²²	Utilization of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources ²³
Alabama	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alaska		✓		✓		✓
California		✓		✓		✓
Colorado	S	✓		✓	✓	✓
Connecticut	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Michigan	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montana	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska		✓	✓			
Ohio	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Oklahoma	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pennsylvania	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tennessee	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
Texas	S	✓	✓	✓		✓
West Virginia	S	✓		✓		✓
Wyoming	S	✓	✓	✓		✓

¹⁹ The State has implemented standards for foster and adoptive family homes and child care institutions.

²⁰ State standards for foster and adoptive family homes are applied uniformly.

²¹ The State conducts criminal clearances for foster care and adoptive families and operates a case planning process that includes provisions for ensuring children's safety.

²² The State diligently recruits foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children for whom homes are needed.

²³ The State utilizes cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for children.